



CHAMPLAIN WATERSHED  
IMPROVEMENT COALITION OF NEW YORK  
CLINTON | ESSEX | FRANKLIN | WARREN | WASHINGTON | COUNTIES

## 2016 Annual Report

Providing a coordinated effort to improve water quality and other natural resources within the New York State Lake Champlain counties through project implementation.



Lake Champlain from Dresden, Washington County

### CWICNY Tour

CWICNY works hard every year to complete a wide variety of projects. From stream restoration, to roadside erosion, and helping farms reduce pollutants entering waterways, we have a lot to show off. With clear blue skies and wonderful temperatures, CWICNY took a tour of Washington County projects within the watershed, and shared the results with our political advisors!

Ben Luskin, Washington SWCD describing projects to be completed at Toolite Farm in Granville, NY, including a CNMP, manure storage, and not spreading manure daily (left). A slope failure, as described by Ben, is causing issues with sediments getting into the Mettawee River and public safety (middle). Blue skies left the group full of smiles (right)!



09/14/2016



09/14/2016



# NY Training Program Realtor Educational

# Lake George Road Salt Reduction Efforts

Funded by the LCBP, this program will afford realtors throughout the Lake Champlain watershed the opportunity to learn about an array of environmental issues, including wells and septs, floodplains, and wetlands, and how they relate to real estate. Three trainings will be held in 2017 in Glens Falls, Lake Placid and Plattsburgh.

In October of 2016 the Regional Planning Board hosted nine Winter Road Maintenance Calibration and Best Management Practices trainings at highway departments in the municipalities surrounding Lake George. Paul Brown, PE, from Massachusetts DOT was brought in to discuss truck calibration, brining operations, site management and funding and support needs within each of the municipalities.

## Non-Point Source Pollution Subwatershed Assesment

Funded by the NYS DOS, work in 2016 included identifying a total of 248 projects to be implemented to reduce phosphorus loading into Lake Champlain and its tributaries. These projects require an investment in both public and private projects that address roadside erosion reduction, wastewater treatment plant upgrades and infrastructure improvements, stormwater runoff management from urbanized areas and an array of agricultural improvement projects. Staff at the Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board and Lake George Association are currently in the process of finalizing the draft plan.

## EM River On the Move

The EM River Simulation model remains a popular instructional and educational tool. Over the past 2 years, it has been utilized at over 25 events through northern New York. This model assists with understanding erosion and sediment loading and stream processes. If you would like to utilize this model for school, outdoor events or other presentations please contact your local CWICNY representative. To the right is a picture of Dean Moore, from Warren County SWCD, educating our youth about erosion and how rivers are formed. For more info on the EM River go to the link below and see what it is all about!

[http://www.emriver.com/?page\\_id=834](http://www.emriver.com/?page_id=834)



## Cover Crops

Cover crops are a great way that farms are helping to reduce sediment and nutrient loss in the Champlain Watershed. Washington County is in the second year of a three year NYS Ag Non-point grant helping farms in the Lake Champlain watershed promote erosion control, soil health and nutrient management. Essex and Clinton County utilized agricultural implementation funds from LCBP to promote conservation across the Champlain watershed in the two counties.

Watershed	Acres	Farms
Champlain	100	4
Chazy River	150	5
Mettawee River	230	4



# County Efforts

## Clinton County

The District submitted and received a Round 22 Agriculture Non-Point Source Grant funding for Adirondack Waste Management project in the watershed. One of the chief goals of the grant is to help this farm protect water quality by increasing waste storage capacity for more appropriate timing of land application. Additional work throughout the watershed includes construction of a milk house waste transfer and storage system, and improvements to a rotational grazing system.

A “Trees for Tribs” project was implemented in the Village of Peru. District Technician Dave Wilfore planned the project and organized 20 volunteers to help plant trees along the Little Ausable River.

Roadside erosion control measures were also a big part of our 2016 activities. Over 10 acres of roadsides were hydroseeded utilizing our WQIP grant funding. We were also able to assist our towns with more severe problems. Our biggest project was on the Golf Course Road in the Town of Black Brook. 600 feet of highly eroding ditches were lined with rip rap, one pre-cast sediment basin was installed, numerous check dams were installed and the roadsides were hydroseeded to prevent sediment runoff. The District also hosted a 4-hour Erosion & Sediment Control workshop early in the year, with over 20 attendees learning how to implement erosion control measures for better construction site management.



Sediment basins help to reduce the amount of sediments that enter our water sources. This one was installed in the summer of 2016 (top), and was tested out in some spring thawing February 2017 (bottom)!



## Essex County

The Cook Project helped to empty a sediment laden pond. The pond, which regularly had road runoff drop sediment into it, was not able to retain water properly due to the amount of sediments being dropped. Since the pond couldn't retain water, it was not able to properly function in holding water long enough to drop out sediments, causing concerns downstream in the Saranac River. The SWCD was able to rent an excavator with a long reach to help clean out the sediments causing the issue as well as help to reform the pond to be effective once again.

The Wade project rerouted an unstable drainage system to a stable reach. This project partnered with the Town of Westport Highway Department. Steep, eroding, unvegetated slopes were carrying sediments to a stream located nearby. The new drainage channel has gentler slopes, and is heavily vegetated on both sides.



Pictures to the left show the pond being worked on to help keep water clean. The rerouted drainage system to the right is now stable and keeping water clean.



## Franklin County

Utilizing CWICNY WQIP funds, the SWCD was able to continue with its hydroseeding program. The photograph to the right shows one of several locations hydroseeded this season!



# County Efforts (cont.)

## Warren County

CWICNY members were busy in Warren County this year with three major streams projects. A stream channel and bank stabilization project was completed in English Brook to protect a section of NYS Route 9 roadbank and to restore in-stream aquatic connectivity. In West Brook, three manmade weirs were removed in the lower section of the stream which had prevented smelt migration and caused habitat degradation due to sediment accumulation. Lastly two streams in the Town of Hague had habitat and stabilization improvement structures placed to develop stable reaches that reduces erosion potential. The partners for these projects include – Warren County SWCD, Lake George Association, Village of Lake George DPW, Cedarwood Engineering, Morrissey Excavation, Trout Unlimited, NYSDEC, USF&WS, NYSDOT and the Steuben County SWCD.



English Brook before (left) and after (right). Weirs will help to create habitat in the stream as well as helping with grade control which reduces velocity.



## Washington County

Last year, Red Top Dairy completed a bedded pack waste storage and transfer system. All of the farm's heifers were moved into the system where manure and feed nutrients are contained and controlled. The engineered system was put into place with the help of the SWCD because the heifers were being fed on concrete pads with no curbing or roof structures to control clean or dirty runoff. The 340 Animal Units were allowed free access to entire stream corridors in the pastures; polluting the watercourse, eroding stream banks, and denuding vegetation. The feeding areas in both locations were upslope from Class C(T) trout tributaries to the Mettawee River.

This Spring the heifer facilities, Diplock and Red's House, where the livestock were previously housed were remediated. Concentrated manure from the feeding and loafing areas was scraped up and spread on farm fields that needed the nutrients. All of the headlocks and concrete infrastructure used for feeding at the Red's House facility were removed and disposed of. An equipment crossing at Diplock's was renovated by installing an adequate culvert, cleaning out sediment deposition at the inlet, and constructing large headwalls at the inlet and outlet. Both sites were graded and shaped to stable, more attractive slopes which involved trucking in additional clean fill when on site material was not available. Farm equipment was used to prepare a good seed bed before Car-O-Vail came to broadcast the seed. The farm ensured seed to soil contact by cultipacking the acreage. Areas along the stream that were hard to access with equipment were hand seeded by the SWCD. For now, both facilities will remain vacant but the farm looks forward to working with the SWCD to develop grazing plans on each site that will supply vegetation in a suitable amount of heifers, while protecting the areas natural resources.



Diplock's heifer facility before (above) and after (below). Red's House heifer facility before (above) and after (below). Gentle slopes and vegetation now help to protect waterways entering trout streams.

# Project Funding In The Basin

In 2016, staff at the Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board authored six grant applications for various municipalities within the watershed totaling over \$665,000 for water quality improvement projects including new salt storage sheds, wastewater treatment plant upgrades, installation of green infrastructure projects and shoreline stabilization. The Regional Planning Board also funded a survey of the US Oval parking lot in the City of Plattsburgh as the first step in addressing stormwater runoff from the 3.5 acre parking lot. Additionally, the Regional Planning Board funded an economic survey of the Village of Fort Ann to assist the Village in preparing for NYS grant applications for upgrades to their wastewater treatment plant.

# Lake George Road Salt Reduction Efforts

In October of 2016 the Regional Planning Board hosted nine Winter Road Maintenance Calibration and Best Management Practices trainings at highway departments in the municipalities surrounding Lake George. Paul Brown, PE, from Massachusetts DOT was brought in to discuss truck calibration, brining operations, site management and funding and support needs within each of the municipalities.



Bringing demonstration. A similar unit is being used by the Town of Lake George for demonstration for the next two years.

# North Country Stormwater Tradeshow



Staff from the LCLGRPB organized the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual North Country Stormwater Tradeshow, which was held on October 20 at the Great Escape Lodge in Queensbury. Over 100 local engineers, landscape architects, code enforcement officers, and municipal officials and staff, as well as 12 product vendors, attended to hear presentations on the past and future of green infrastructure projects, Million Dollar Beach porous pavement project, and new this year, an array of presentations from the product vendors on innovative ideas for single family private projects.

# Pictures Across the Basin



West Brook weir removal

Red spotted salamander



No-till drill training



Pink lady's slipper



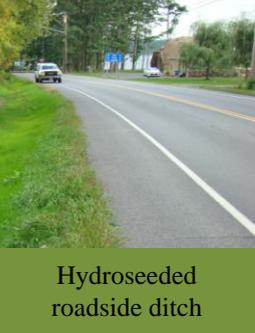
Swallowtail butterfly



Wood frog



Rush Pond Trail



Hydroseeded roadside ditch

# CWICNY Representatives



East Branch Ausable River,  
Essex County

**Executive Board**  
 Dave Reckahn (Essex County SWCD), President  
 Chastity Miller (Franklin County SWCD), Vice President  
 Jim Lieberum (Warren County SWCD), Treasurer  
 Randy Rath (LGA), Secretary



Peter



Dave



Chastity



Jim



Corrina

## 2017 CWICNY Members

### Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)

- Clinton County
  - Peter Hagar
- Essex County
  - Dave Reckahn
- Franklin County
  - Chastity Miller
- Warren County
  - Jim Lieberum
- Washington County
  - Corrina Aldrich

### Water Quality Coordinating Committees (WQCC)

- Clinton County
    - Kelley Tucker
      - Ausable River Association
  - Essex County
    - Alice Halloran
      - Essex County SWCD
  - Franklin
    - Kristin Ballou
      - Franklin County SWCD
  - Warren
    - Randy Rath
      - Lake George Association
  - Washington
    - Bob Kalbfliesh
      - Washington County SWCD
- Lake Champlain/ Lake George Regional Planning Board (LC/ LG RPB)*
- Beth Gilles



Kelley



Alice



Randy



Bob



Beth

CWICNY Inc. is a 501-C-(3) Not-for-Profit group originally formed in 2001 with the goal of “Providing a Coordinated Effort to Improve Water Quality and Other Natural Resources Within the Lake Champlain Counties Through Project Implementation.” This coalition is a grass-roots approach that recognizes the importance of local participation and cooperation in addressing the many sources of pollutants into Lake Champlain.

CWICNY is governed by an 11-member Board of Directors that includes representatives from each of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and each of the Water Quality Coordinating Committees from Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Warren and Washington Counties, and a representative from the Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board. Advisors to the group include the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and The Greater Adirondack Resource Conservation and Development Council.

